

# A Synopsis of the Genus *Eisocreochiton* Quisumb. & Merr. (Melastomataceae)

BY

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(With two plates)

A new species *Eisocreochiton furfuracea* Nayar, is described from Borneo with illustrations. *Anplectrum monticola* Ridl. is transferred to the present genus as *Eisocreochiton monticola* (Ridl.) Nayar. *Creochiton kinabaluense* Heine is found to be conspecific with *E. monticola* (Ridl.) Nayar. A key to the species so far known is also presented.

## INTRODUCTION

The author has carried out a taxonomic study of several genera in the family Melastomataceae at the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta, the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. and the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, Netherlands from 1960-68. The present paper deals with the genus *Dissochaeteae* Quisumb. & Merr. belonging to the tribe *Dissochaeteae* Triana.

Quisumbing & Merrill (in Philipp. Journ. Sc. 37: 177, 1928) established the genus *Eisocreochiton* on the basis of specimen *Ramos & Edano* Bur. Sc. No. 45610 from Luzon, Philippines. While describing the type species *Eisocreochiton bracteata*, they observed that the inflorescence and vegetative characters agree with that of *Creochiton* Bl. However, since the "floral characters are totally different" they assigned the genus *Eisocreochiton* to the tribe Oxysporeae near *Blastus* Lour. The genus *Eisocreochiton* is closely allied to *Creochiton*, but differs in having dorsally spurred and ventrally biappendiculate connective; whereas in the genus *Creochiton* Bl. the connective is dorsally spurred and ventrally inappendiculate. Quisumbing & Merrill (l.c. supra) wrongly assigned the genus *Eisocreochiton* to the tribe Oxysporeae. Since the genus *Eisocreochiton* has baccate fruits, it belongs to the tribe *Dissochaeteae*; while the tribe Oxysporeae has capsular fruits.

The name *Eisocreochiton* is derived from Greek, 'Eiso' = alike, equal; 'creo' = fleshy; 'chiton' = an outer covering, in allusion to the thick bracteoles covering the flowers. *Eisocreochiton* = plants alike *Creochiton*.

Of the three species so far known, the type species *E. bracteata* Quisumb. & Merr. is endemic to the Island of Luzon in the Philippines.

The other two species *E. monticola* (Ridl.) Nayar and *E. furfuracea* Nayar are both endemic to Borneo.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *Eisocreochiton*

I. Stamens 4:

II. Bracteoles oblong-ovate, 8-11 mm. long, 4-8 mm. wide, pale green, thin; leaves when dry pale green, under surface of leaf when young more or less covered with ferrugineous plumose and stellate hairs, hairs deciduous and leaves glabrescent . . . . *E. bracteata*

II. Bracteoles obovate, 5-6 mm. long, 3-4 mm. wide, dark brown, thick; leaves when dry brown, under surface of leaf densely covered with ferrugineous plumose and stellate hairs. . . . .  
. . . . *E. furfuracea*

I. Stamens 8, four large and four small . . . . *E. monticola*

ENUMERATION OF SPECIES

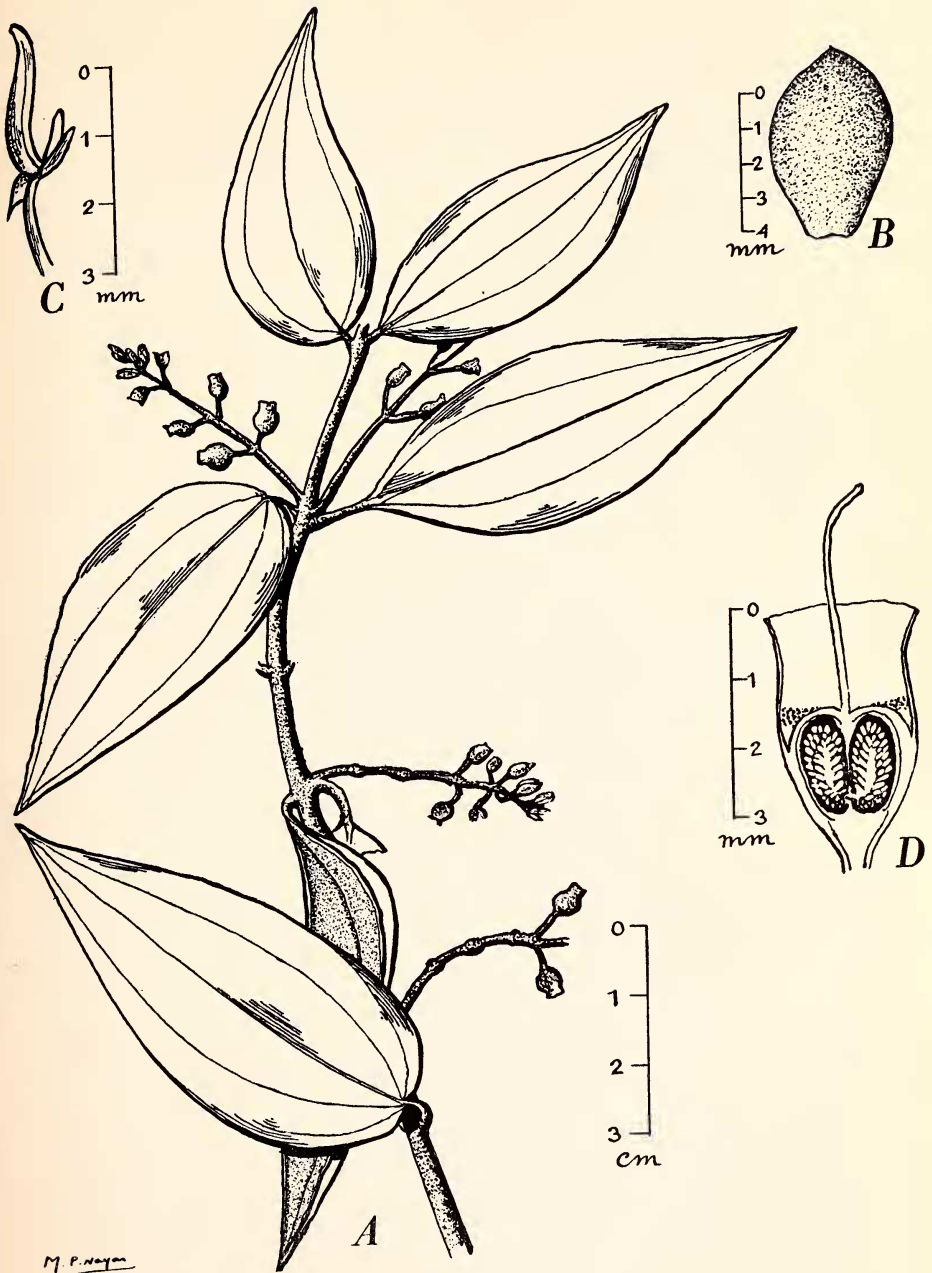
1. ***Eisocreochiton bracteata*** Quisumb. & Merr. in Philipp. Journ. Sc. 37: 177, 1928.

*Distribution:* Philippines, Luzon, Nueva Vizcaya Prov., Mt. Alzapan, *Ramos & Edano* Bur. Sc. No. 45610 (Isotypes K, BM)

2. ***Eisocreochiton furfuracea*** sp. nov. (Plate I)

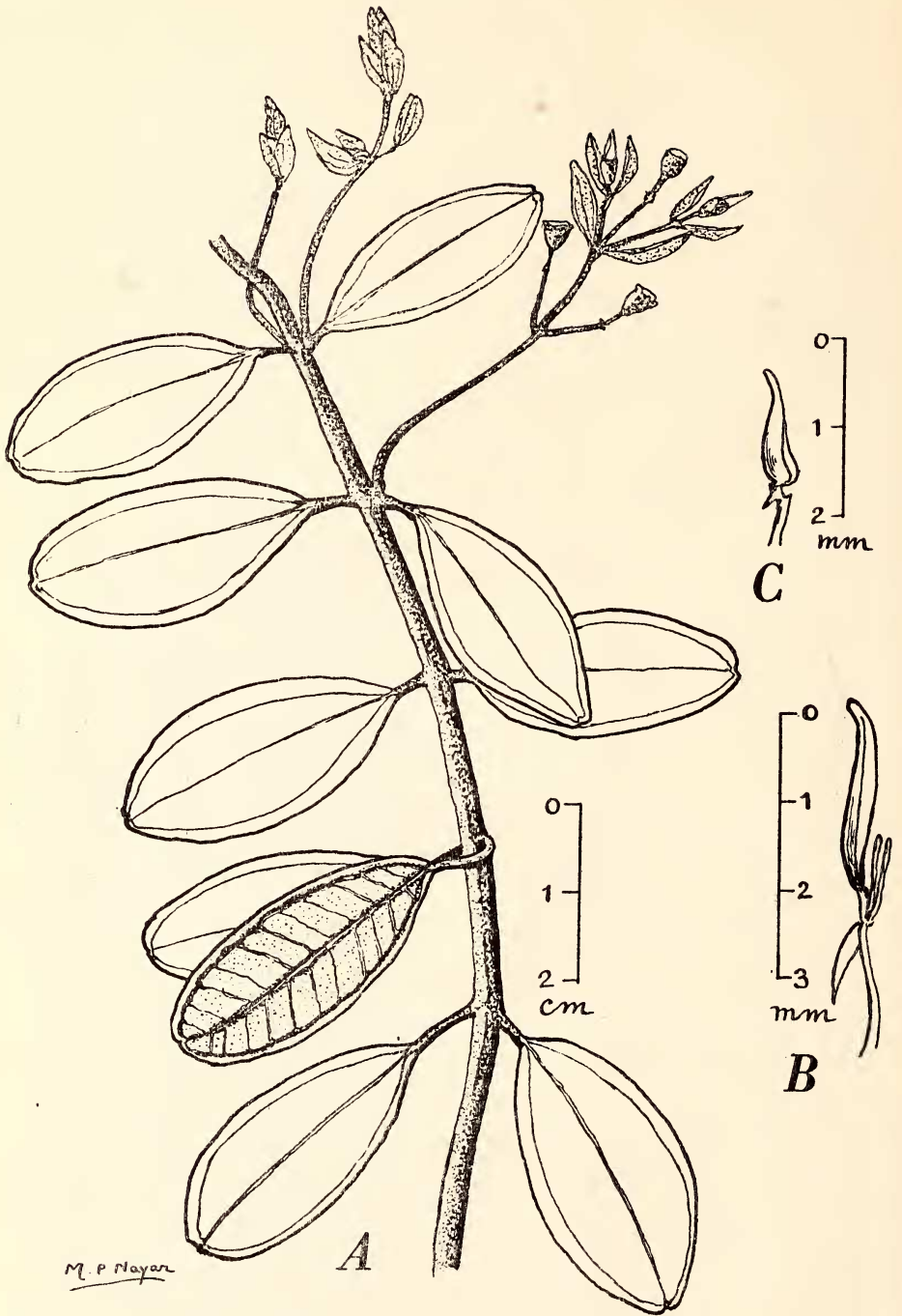
Affinis *E. bracteatae* Quisumb. & Merr., sed bracteolis obovatis, brunneis, minoribus, foliis subtus dense pubescentibus differt.

*Frutex scandens.* Rami subteretes, dense ferrugineo-plumoso-furfuracei. *Folia* ovato-lanceolata, 4.5-6.5 × 2.5-3 cm., basi subrotunda vel subobtusata, apice acuminata, margine integra, supra glabra, subtus dense ferrugineo-stellata, coriacea, 3-5 nervia, venulis transversis indistinctis; petiolus 8-11 mm. longus, dense ferrugineo-plumoso-hirsutus. *Inflorescentia* axillaris, racemosa, 3-7 cm. longa; bracteolae obovatae, 5-6 × 3-4 mm., dense furfuraceae, brunneae; pedicellus 4-5 mm. longus. *Calycis tubus* campanulatus, 2.5-3 mm. longus, stellato-furfuraceus, limbus truncatus. *Petala* 4, 2-2.5 × 2 mm. glabra. *Stamina* 4, filamentis 1.5 mm. longis, antheris 2 mm. longis, connectivo non producto, dorso in appendicem triangularem 0.8 mm. longam exeunte, in parte ventrali in appendices duas 0.7 mm. longas exeunte. *Ovarium* calycis tubo septis 4 adnatum, 'loculis' 4, usque ad quartam partem prolongatis; Stylus 2-2.5 mm. longus, glaber, stigmatibus inconspicuis. *Bacca* globosa, stellato-furfuracea; semina numerosa, cuneata, 0.7-0.8 mm. longa.



*Eisocreochiton furfuracea* Sp. nov.

A. Habit. B. Bracteole. C. Stamen-side view. D. L. S. of calyx tube



*Eisocreochiton monticola* (Ridl.) Nayar comb. nov.

A. Habit. B. Large stamen-side view. C. Small stamen-side view.